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10/500,401	02/02/2005	Junji Oiwa	SONYJP 3,3342	4396
530 7590 10/28/2008 LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK 600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST WESTFIELD, NJ 07090				
EXAMINER				
HASAN, SYED Y				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/500,401

Applicant(s)

OIWA ET AL.

Examiner

SYED Y. HASAN

Art Unit

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/CE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/28/2004 and 7/10/2006
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed on 07/07/2008 regarding claims 1 - 22 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In re page 12 applicant argues regarding claim 1 that Utsunomiya fails to disclose "a recordation control process executing section" or that "a plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information are generated corresponding respectively to the plurality of information recording means" or that "link information to the plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information is stored to one piece of the reproduction management information".

In response examiner respectfully disagrees. The claim language specifies "a recordation control process executing section for executing a data recordation process to the information recording means". Based on the definition in the specification on page 9, para 0125, Oiwa et al discloses that "the recordation control process 313, when there are a plurality of recording mediums for storing contents, first executes selection processes as to which one is to be used as a content-recordation start medium. These selection processes are by the method, for example, of acquiring pieces of available capacity information on a plurality of recording mediums and selecting a recording medium having a greater available capacity." Utsunomiya et al teaches that on page 3, par 0047 and 0048 a judging process to determine which recording medium to select for recording. Then on page 4, paras 0051 – 0060 the process of recordation is disclosed. This clearly defines the same process as the claimed invention.

With respect to Oiwa et al disclosing that "a plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information are generated corresponding respectively to the plurality of information recording means". Here Utsunomiya et al teaches on fig 8 and page 5, para 0071 that "the recorder/player 3 not only performs communication link generating control with itself and the display 5, but also performs communication link generating control between the recorder/player 4 and the display 5. In FIG. 8, the dotted lines indicate the flow of control signals, and the fine lines indicate the flow of information such as picture information or the like." This clearly defines the same procedure as the claimed invention.

With respect to Oiwa et al disclosing that "'link information to the plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information is stored to one piece of the reproduction management information". Here Utsunomiya et al teaches on fig 11 and page 5, paras 0083 and 0084 that "information of the dispersed storage location of the contents dispersed and recorded is recorded in and managed by one of the electronic information devices connected to the bus. This information of the dispersed storage location is also information regarding the dispersed storage devices." This again clearly overcomes the disclosed claim.

With respect to applicants claim that "Further, even if each control unit is properly functioning, the recording process may be interrupted as the first VCR reaches maximum capacity and the second VCR begins recording, thus resulting in a loss of information." Here Utsunomiya et al teaches on page 3, para 0048 that if "in the event that the control unit 10 judges that the available capacity of the disk 18 is low and that

the contents being written cannot be recorded to the end, the control unit 10 generates consecutive recording information made up of information indicating which recorder/player the subsequent information of the contents ID will be consecutively recorded to, and adds this to the contents with the consecutive recording information adding unit 12." Also on page 4, para 0056 mention is made of a smooth transition at the time of playing. Hence this argument is not acceptable.

Hence claim 1 stays rejected. Since the same argument applies to independent claims 8, 11, 18, 21 and 22, hence the balance of all the dependent claims stay rejected.

Therefore claims 1 – 22 stay rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1 – 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Utsunomiya et al (US 2002/0066113)

Regarding **claim 1** Utsunomiya et al discloses an information recording apparatus for executing a data recordation process (fig 1) the information recording apparatus comprising:

a plurality of information recording means for recording data (fig 1, item 3 and 4, para 0039) and

a recordation control process executing section for executing a data recordation

process to the information recording means (fig 1, para 0051, flow of control signals) and a process of generating control information during data reproduction (fig 8, para 0071)

the control information, including reproduction procedure information in which a procedure for reproducing data is stored and reproduction management information in which link information to the reproduction procedure information is stored (fig 11, paras 0084 - 0086)

wherein in the case of continuously executing a data recordation process to a plurality of information recording means (fig 1, item 3 and 4) a plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information are generated corresponding respectively to the plurality of information recording means (fig 8, para 0071) and link information to the plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information is stored to one piece of the reproduction management information (fig 11, para 0083 and 0084)

Regarding **claim 2** Utsunomiya et al discloses an information recordation apparatus wherein the recordation control process executing section is adapted to in the case of continuously executing a data recordation process to a plurality of information recording means, store the link information to the plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information to one piece of the reproduction management information (see claim 1 above) and

store continue information, representative of whether recording a same content continuously to a next piece of reproduction procedure information, to storage domains corresponding to individual pieces of reproduction procedure information (fig 4 and 5, para 0053 and 0054, continue recording)

Regarding **claim 3** Utsunomiya et al discloses an information recordation apparatus, wherein the recordation control process executing section is adapted to in

the case of continuously executing a data recordation process to a plurality of information recording means, store the link information to the plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information to one piece of the reproduction management information (see claim 1 above) and store end information, representative of whether a piece of reproduction procedure information is a final piece of reproduction procedure information, in a data storage domain corresponding to an individual piece of reproduction procedure information (fig 4 and 5, para 0053 and 0054, end recording)

Regarding **claim 4** Utsunomiya et al discloses an information recordation apparatus, wherein the recordation control process executing section (fig 3, 10, control unit) is adapted to store, in each piece of the reproduction procedure information, management information on data continuously recorded on one recording medium, and information enabling a storage position of the data to be determined (fig 11, paras 0084 – 0086, illustrates location of storage)

Regarding **claim 5** Utsunomiya et al discloses an information recordation apparatus, wherein the recordation control process executing section is adapted to compare an available capacity for recording data between the plurality of information recording means, and select information recording means having a greater available capacity for data recordation (fig 4 and 5, para 0054, available capacity monitored)

Regarding **claim 6** Utsunomiya et al discloses an information recordation apparatus, wherein the recordation control process executing section is adapted to compare a remaining capacity of the information recording means under data recording with a preset threshold, and execute continuously a data recordation process to another information recording means on condition that the remaining capacity becomes less than the threshold (fig 5, para 0056, continue recording)

Regarding **claim 7** Utsunomiya et al discloses an information recordation apparatus, wherein the recordation control process executing section is adapted to

generate first reproduction procedure information when commencing a data recordation process to the information recording means, and store link information to the first reproduction procedure information to the reproduction management information (see claim 1 above) and generate new second reproduction procedure information in the case of executing continuing data recording to different information recording means, store link information to the second reproduction procedure information to the reproduction management information, and set continue information representative of having next reproduction procedure information to the first reproduction procedure information (fig 4 and 5, S10 continue record in VCR 2)

Regarding **claim 8** Utsunomiya et al discloses an information reproduction apparatus for executing a data reproducing process (fig 1) the information reproduction apparatus comprising:

- a plurality of information recording means for subject-of-reproducing data (fig 1, item 3 and 4, para 0039) and

- a reproduction control process executing section for executing a reproducing process of data stored on the information recording means, depending upon control information (fig 8, para 0071)

- the control information including reproduction procedure information in which a procedure for reproducing data is recorded and reproduction management information in which link information to the reproduction procedure information is stored (see claim 1 above)

- wherein in a case that there are a plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information linked to the reproduction management information (fig 1, item 3 and 4) the plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information are switched in order and applied as control information (fig 8, para 0071) and reproduction-of-subject data is

acquired from different information recording means based on an individual piece of reproduction procedure information (fig 11, para 0083 and 0084)

Regarding **claim 9** Utsunomiya et al discloses an information reproduction apparatus, wherein the reproduction management information stores, in a data storage domain corresponding to each piece of reproduction procedure information (fig 8, para 0071) continue information representative of whether recording a same content continuously to next pieces of reproduction procedure information (para 0056) and the reproduction control process executing section is adapted to determine whether to continuously execute reproduction control depending upon the continue information in the reproduction management information for the piece of reproduction procedure information corresponding to the data under reproduction (fig 6, reproduction)

Regarding **claim 10** Utsunomiya et al discloses an information reproduction apparatus, wherein the reproduction control process executing section (fig 6, 10, control unit) is adapted to acquire, is adapted to from the reproduction procedure information, management information on data continuously recorded on one recording medium and information enabling a storage position of the data to be determined (fig 11, para 0084 – 0086)

Method claims 11 – 17 is rejected based on apparatus claims 1 – 7 respectively.
Method claims 18 – 20 is rejected based on apparatus claims 8 – 10 respectively
Claims 21 and 22 are rejected based on claim 1 and computer (fig 1, 6)

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure

Horii et al (US 2003/0081515) discloses information recording medium, and apparatus and information reproducing apparatus and copying apparatus.

Kotani (US 2002/0159186) discloses an information data reproducing apparatus

Matoba et al (US 2002/0097986) discloses a broadcast storage system with reduced users control actions.

Ino et al (US 6292626) discloses a reproducing and recording apparatus.

Iitsuka (US 5415686) discloses a data playback apparatus for realizing high transfer data.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Syed Y. Hasan whose telephone number is 571-270-1082. The examiner can normally be reached on 9/8/5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

S. Y. H.
10/22/2008

/Thai Tran/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2621